

From:
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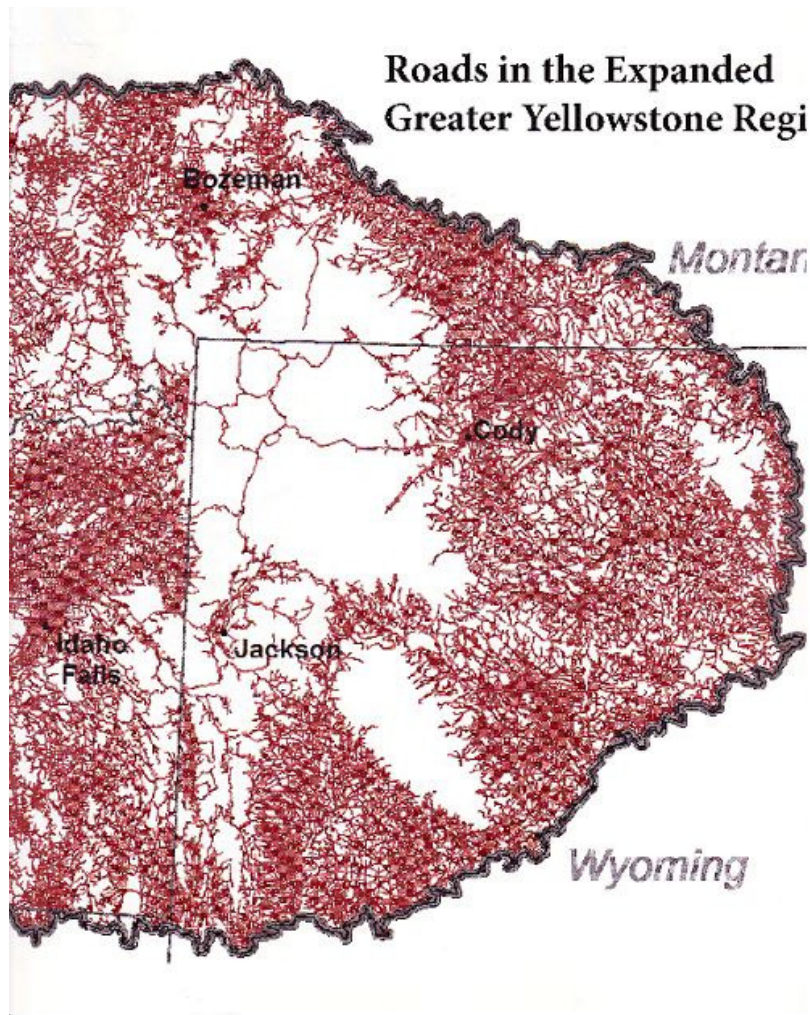
To:
Thomas Tidwell, Chief, USDA Forest Service
Attn: EMC – Administrative Reviews
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Mailstop 1104
Washington, DC 20250-1104
objections-chief@fs.fed.us

I write today to pass along my objections to the released SNF plan (Land Management Plan 2014 Revision Shoshone National Forest). After many years of formation, the final document is taking shape. My objections are a request to revisit an area of the plan which I feel jeopardizes the legacy of over 100 years of balanced management. First, I commented extensively on the SNF Plan revision in November of 2012. As you know we have a very special place here in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Nowhere else do we have this diversity of geological and ecological treasures and the Shoshone NF has been a shepherd over these treasures for 100 plus years, putting preservation first to maintain this legacy.



The perpetual asset of an intact ecosystem relies on preservation decisions by all land administrators within the GYE: National Forest, BLM, YNP, Teton NP, State and private land. The validation of these past decisions on maintaining a wild and intact ecosystem is the worldwide recognition and visitor and outdoor enthusiast travel to the area. Gateway tourism to visit, hunt and fish are setting records each year as well as driving the area's economy.

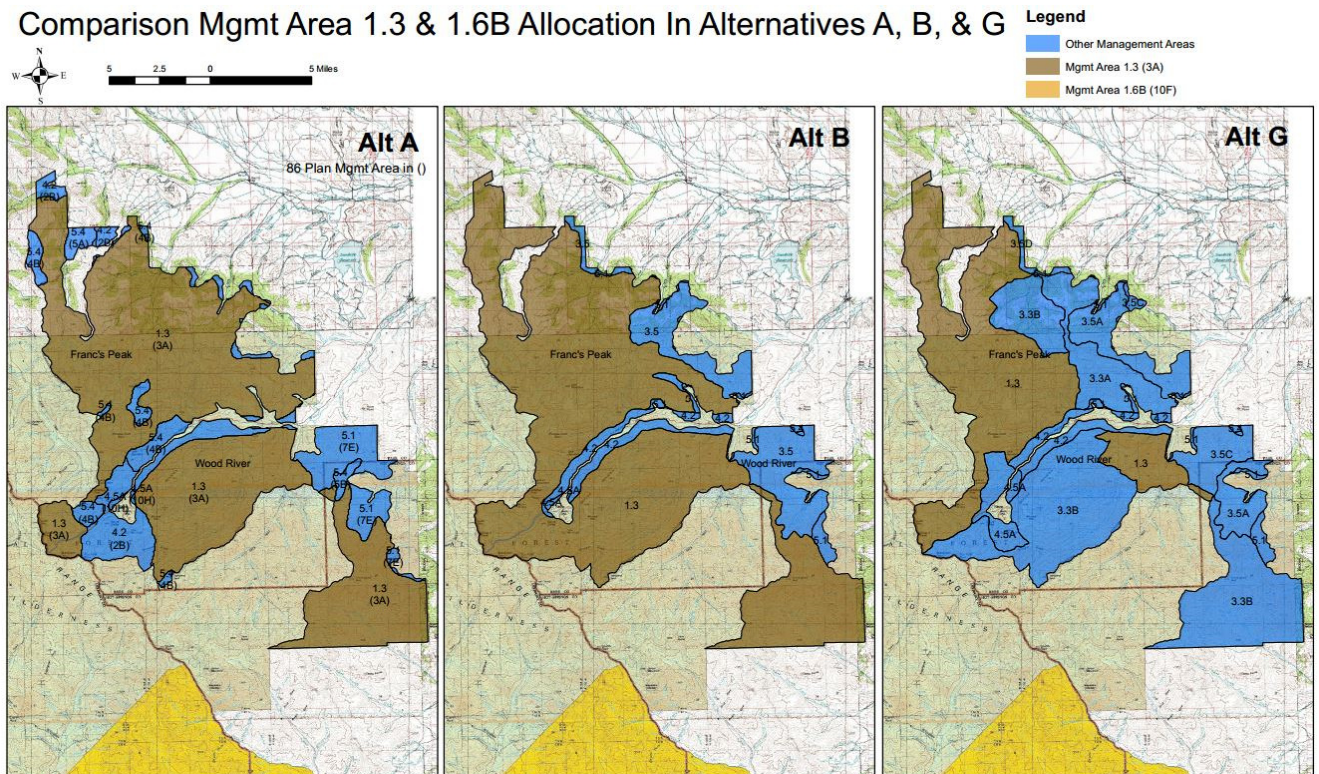
The map below speaks to wildness as well as the need to recognize the extent of human impacts around the perimeter of the GYE. The balance is a fragile one to maintain the wildness, iconic species and an intact natural system. Part of that management has been consistent supervision between agency land managers to care-take the critical 8 month big game wintering needs around the perimeter of the GYE.



Specifically, my objection is the proposed increase in motorized use in the Francs Peak and Wood River designated roadless areas of the SNF. The Alt G map below depicts this change from Alt. A.

This is a vast change from current management of an incredibly wild and critical wildlife corridor and wintering area. The Greybull and Wood River drainages are very complicated as you know and are revered among hunters, fishermen and outfitters as very special areas. A move to open more motorized winter and summer use is not in keeping with the need to protect the intact system that is present at this time.

Comparison Mgmt Area 1.3 & 1.6B Allocation In Alternatives A, B, & G



Wyoming Game and Fish analyzed the BLM land contiguous to the Shoshone Forest boundary line detailing the areas of critical habitat. In addition, the Shoshone and the land managed to the east: BLM, State and private, currently work in seasonal harmony to afford 8 months of winter shelter for big game. The new Alternative G will greatly add impacts that redefine the carrying capacity for wildlife and wildness of the area.

The Shoshone motorized travel map below shows the existing Forest access which has worked for decades, affording opportunities for all. To date it has not jeopardized the wild attributes of the area or the ecosystem.



Although the majority of motorized users are aware of the impact they create and zone of influence that they cast, the technology and mega power has been on the rise. Impacts are not what they used to be. Over-snow travel goes anywhere and everywhere

and ATV travel seems to have some who can't stay on designated routes. Loops, speed and "X-activity" all add exponentially to the impacts of motorized travel.

Here are a few examples:

Snow, Snow, Snow & Powder, Powder, Powder



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Clarks Fork Canyon ATV barrier, river to cliff.



ATV opportunities throughout the Shoshone, like the Morrison Jeep Trail, are currently working in an acceptable way for the most part. ATV and snowmobile expansion will only endanger the intact ecosystem.



“It Takes a Village”

Foreground

BLM Section 6
T 057N, R 102W

Middleground

Private Land
TNC Conservation Easement

Background

Shoshone
National Forest

Photo by Kathy Lichtendahl of the Beartooth Front

Solution, I am in favor of a healthy, intact Yellowstone Ecosystem and continued consistent, enlightened management of the public lands that comprise it. **I ask that SNF manage the Francs Peak and Wood River inventoried roadless areas as recommended wilderness in accord with Alternative D of the Draft Forest Plan.**

The SNF treasure that we have here in the GYE only needs continued wild habitat preservation to bestow its benefits to the world; let's keep those benefits going. Thank you for your consideration and professionalism to deliver the next chapter in the management of the Shoshone National Forest.

Ken Lichtendahl
Clark, Wyoming

cc.

Carrie Christman, SNF

Jerimiah Rieman, Natural Resource Advisor, Office of the Governor

Mike Stewart, BLM, Cody Field Manager

Alan Osterland, Wyo. G & F, Cody

Tim Woolley, Wyo. G & F, Cody